

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8361

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: QUEBEC ELECTIONS AS SEEN FROM CONSULAR SECTION

1. ONE MEASURE OF THE EFFECT OF THE RECENT ELECTION OF A PEQUISTE GOVERNMENT IN QUEBEC CAN BE FOUND IN THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN OUR CONSULAR SECTION WORKLOADS.
2. THE INITIAL SURGE IN IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATIONS WAS REPORTED IN MONTREAL'S 1780. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN A LEVELING-DOWN AS PANIC (BUT NOT CONCERN) SUBSIDED, WE ARE STILL RECEIVING APPROXIMATELY FOUR TIMES AS MANY "PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNAIRES" AS USUAL (FORTY/FORTY-FIVE VS. TEN) DAILY. (A COMPLETED PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNAIRE NORMALLY REFLECTS A MORE SERIOUS INTENT TO FOLLOW THROUGH THAN DOES A PHONE CALL ASKING GENERAL RUBRICS, OF COURSE.)
3. WE ARE ALSO CONTINUING TO GET HIGH-LEVEL ENQUIRIES, THAT COULD PROBABLY BEST BE DESCRIBED AS "INSURANCE" APPLICATIONS, E.G. CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRIZEC, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE CG'S PHYSICIAN, ETC.
4. INCOMING IMMIGRANT VISA CORRESPONDENCE, TABULATED BY THE FILES UNIT, WENT UP FROM (ROUNDED FIGURES) 3200 PIECES IN OCTOBER (SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN NORMAL) TO OVER 5300 PIECES IN NOVEMBER.
5. THE IMPACT IS ALSO BEING FELT IN THE CITIZENSHIP UNIT.

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PASSPORT ISSUANCES IN NOVEMBER 76 WERE UP 35 PERCENT ABOVE

NOVEMBER 75 LEVELS, AND NOT, IN A GREAT MANY CASES, ASSOCIATED WITH NEAR-TERM TRAVEL PLANS. "WE JUST WANT TO HAVE THINGS IN ORDER" IS A COMMON COMMENT. REPORTS OF BIRTH ARE ALSO UP SHARPLY, PARTICULARLY FOR CHILDREN IN THE AGE FIVE TO TWENTY GROUP, I.E., "COMING OUT OF THE WOODWORK" CASES. FIRST-TIME APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION, TO ESTABLISH A CLAIM FOR U.S. CITIZENSHIP, ARE UP, LARGELY BY WOMEN, MARRIED TO CANADIANS, WHO HAVE NOT FELT THE NEED TO CREATE SUCH A RECORD OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS' RESIDENCE HERE. THIS COULD SUGGEST THAT WOMEN ARE MORE CONCERNED THAN MEN. IT COULD ALSO, ON THE OTHER HAND, BE A REFLECTION OF THEIR HUSBANDS' CONCERN, AS IT IS CONSIDERABLY EASIER TO MIGRATE TO THE U.S. AS THE SPOUSE OF A CITIZEN THAN ANY OTHER WAY.

HARPER

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